

AUGUST 2020

A community magazine serving the residents of Nutley

# NUTLEY NEIGHBORS

## Who is Thy Neighbor?

*Jack Cuffari and Tracey Stephens*



Photograph by  
David Morehouse



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## 20/20 Vision

I wonder how optometrists are going to explain that the term 20/20 still refers to normal vision. I doubt there is anyone on the planet who equates those numbers with anything remotely resembling normal.

As we all know from our eye checkups, the doctor asks us to read a chart that is 20 feet away. Our ability (or inability) to read each line determines the clearness of our vision. If you ace it, you are said to have 20/20 vision.

But many of us are not able to read the entire chart accurately. Our eyes are not seeing things clearly.

As we hurtle through the year 2020, I respectfully wonder if we are missing some of the good stuff. Are we only seeing part of the 'eye chart' with the large letters (aka headlines) at the top?

While this year is certainly filled with unimaginable challenges, I have been enriched by some people who have improved my vision of life in general.

I met our cover couple, Jack Cuffari and Tracey Stephens, over the phone. Their lives and careers reflect an active interest in the people around them. And not just a curiosity, but a genuine desire to help and make lives better. Jack is currently a pastor and Tracey is an interior designer with a focus on using sustainable materials. I see their attention is on the long-term view, of both people and the planet, which is a helpful place to look during this year of uncertainty.

Anais St. Amant showed up in my inbox last month. She was one of the Nutley High School graduates who shared their thoughts about being a senior in the midst of a pandemic. Besides her words, she emailed some of her artwork. I was amazed and impressed.

She gets some of her inspiration from current events, which makes both poignant and powerful statements. Seeing the world through her creations helped improve my vision as well. Be sure to read the article and view her online portfolio.

In town, our steadfast institutions—the library and the museum—also help us focus in different directions. The library shifted the view of patrons to the virtual world as they offer interaction, events, and, yes, books, in new ways. You will find out more in the Library Corner article.

Barry Lenson, of the Nutley Historical Society and Museum, tells us about a symphony orchestra that was part of our town for many years. Reading about this reminded me that there are always people ready to make our lives more interesting and enjoyable.

As you read through this issue, let's remember that 20/20 is just a way of seeing things, and eventually the view changes.



**Joyce Corey** Content Coordinator

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Investment Advice, and Insurance Planning for his clients. Mike is a graduate of Penn State University.

Salvatore Cocco, Jr. CLU has been with Beacon Wealth Partners, LLC since 1995 and has practiced as a generalist in all disciplines of the financial planning services including Investment Planning, Retirement Planning, College Savings, and Insurance. He is a 1977 graduate of Seton Hall University and was inducted into their Entrepreneurial Hall of Fame.



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### INSIGHT EYE & VISION CARE

Dr. Theresa Radtke is a 2016 graduate of the Arizona College of Optometry. Through completing a residency and clinical rotations focused in Ocular Disease, she honed her skills in diagnosing and treating a full spectrum of eye conditions. InSight Eye & Vision Care is a full

service optometric practice and optical shop she opened in 2017 with hopes of providing a one stop shop for excellent eye care, eyewear and personalized service for the community.



### INVESTORS HOME MORTGAGE

Joe Isabella is a Certified Mortgage Planning Specialist (CMPS®). He has been with Investors Home Mortgage since 2010 and is a Circle of Excellence Award winner. Since joining Investors, Joe has helped many families in Nutley and the surrounding area with their home financing needs. He was born and raised in Nutley and still

resides in his home town. He is a graduate of both Nutley High School and Montclair State University.



### LIGRESTI DERMATOLOGY ASSOCIATES

Doctor Dominick J. Ligresti is a Medical Doctor who is a Board Certified Dermatologist (which is the highest degree in medicine and dermatology). He is also an Adjunct Professor of Dermatology and Clinic Chief at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in NYC.

He teaches medical doctors from Hackensack University Hospital.

He successfully treats all skin diseases for adult and pediatric patients, including advanced painless allergy testing. Ligresti Dermatology Associates is a full service dermatology practice including cosmetic dermatology for antiaging like: Restylane fillers, Botox/Dysport, Chemical Peels and Microdermabrasion. The office is located at 175 Franklin Ave. Nutley.



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14 Bayard Street	259,000	250,000	-3.47%	7
16 Emily Avenue	324,999	250,000	-23.07%	79
15 Webster Street	309,900	312,000	0.67%	18
106 Oak Ridge Avenue	335,000	330,000	-1.49%	42
249 River Road	339,000	360,000	6.19%	24
4 Evergreen Avenue	369,900	360,000	-2.67%	28
359 Walnut Street	379,000	380,000	0.26%	32
602 Hartford Drive	379,000	370,000	-2.37%	6
39 Freeman Place	399,000	380,000	4.76%	46
446 Harrison Street	399,900	392,000	-1.90%	38
164 Oak Ridge Avenue	410,000	460,000	12.19%	13
315 Bloomfield Avenue	399,900	407,500	1.90%	7
20 Windsor Place	439,900	455,000	3.43%	12
151 Highfield Lane	449,900	430,000	-4.42%	197
308 Chestnut Street	468,880	463,000	-1.20%	63
79 High Street	474,000	462,000	-2.53%	71
526 Coventry Drive	479,999	460,000	-4.16%	52
43 Wayne Place	529,999	505,000	-4.71%	67
2 Kenzel Avenue	525,000	580,000	10.47%	6



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# Who is Thy Neighbor?

By Joyce Corey

Jack Cuffari and Tracey Stephens answer this age-old question every day as their respective careers impact and improve the lives of people around them. Between the two of them, and a total of six different professions, this couple enthusiastically uses their strengths to make a positive difference in the world, whether they are speaking before a congregation or giving a talk about sustainability.

Their path to togetherness took a circuitous, albeit interesting, route through a few religious denominations, previous marriages, and a couple continents to finally settle down here in town.

Well, perhaps 'settle' isn't exactly the right word, since at the heart of their relationship is activism. The dictionary defines activism as promoting social, political, or



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environmental reform for the greater good of society.

The lives of Jack and Tracey bring that definition to life in a variety of ways.

Separately, they grew up on different sides of the world. Jack spent his childhood on Sylvan Place in Nutley and Tracey was in Europe.

"I was the youngest of three children," Jack said. "We all went to the Nutley schools and I graduated NHS in 1973. After that, I went to Ithaca College where I was a theater major."

"I was the daughter of a Foreign Service officer," Tracey said. "We lived in various countries and locations in Europe and moved every three years. I moved back to America in 1971 for college."

After graduating college, Jack used his education and degree in two different careers.



"I started in the arts for a few years, and then entered the world of advertising and marketing for about 30 years," he said.

But his next, and current career move, embraced his lifelong activism.

"I currently serve as Interim Pastor for the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Haworth, New Jersey," he said.

Jack views his role as Minister as a position where "social justice meets my spiritual life."

He quickly summarized the journey from being "born into a family of devout but progressive Catholics" to getting ordained as an Elder in the Presbyterian Church in 1995, and then entering the Quaker community in 2001.

"In 2014, I joined the United Church of Christ," he said. This allows him to manifest sacred activism, which he describes as "the intentional focus on tolerance, radical inclusion, and social justice."

Meanwhile, as Jack was defining his level of activism, Tracey was busy as well.

"After college and waitressing for a few years, my first



*Visiting in the front yard with Jack's daughter and family: Madeline and Olivier Martineau, and son Tai*

professional job was the director of a shelter for battered women, then I worked for Planned Parenthood," she tells us.

Today, she owns her own business in Montclair, Tracey Stephens Interior Design, where she focuses her creativity on environmentally-friendly kitchen and bath remodeling.

"My mother was an artist and her hobby was decorating," Tracey said. "I started my business in 1991 while still a student at Parsons School of Design. For the last decade, I have focused primarily on kitchen and bath design. With my extensive background in green design, my interiors make the planet happy, too."

And—this is very important to our story—she had also belonged to a Quaker community; hers was in Chatham, New Jersey. It was through this association that Jack and Tracey met, and it's no surprise they were both looking to deepen their connections among like-minded believers.

"We met washing dishes after a potluck lunch at a regional function for the Quaker community," Tracey said. "Jack was a member of Montclair Monthly Meeting."

They were later married in October 2014 and

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*Walking in Nutley at the waterfall at Kingsland Manor*

honeymooned in Sicily the following year.

Making Nutley their home was an easy decision. "I not only grew up here," Jack said, "but raised my three children here as well. They all went to the Nutley schools like I did and each of them is successful in their respective careers. The school system in Nutley is exceptional. I love that my children sat in the same classrooms as I did."

Tracey has a son, Evan Stephens Hall, who is the leader of the band,

Pinegrove, which was formed in Montclair in 2010.

While the word activism can conjure up various images, the heart of this principle is to improve the lives of people you know, work with, or live among in the same neighborhood.

In fact, Jack may have started his life in activism back in 1972 when he helped promote social interaction, right here in town, during the summer between his junior and senior year in high school. "A group of us were all bored playing Monopoly and other games," he said. "So, we organized

5

## Five Things Jack and Tracey Love About Nutley

1. Nutley Farmers Market "Walk & Talk" through the Nutley parks
2. The Bosphorus restaurant
3. Increased diversity in the community
4. Greenutley
5. ShopRite which is the heartbeat of town

a six-hour rock show at the Oval. We invited neighboring towns to attend and we had between 800 and 1,000 kids show up."

Working for the greater good (and fun!) in society is certainly part of this couple's mission, and it's built on a principle they both share:

*Be kind and work for justice for all people.*

Now, that's being a good neighbor. ■

*We are always looking for fascinating residents to feature in Nutley Neighbors. If you are interested in being included or would like to nominate one of your neighbors please email [jcorey@bestversionmedia.com](mailto:jcorey@bestversionmedia.com).*

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# The Nutley Public Library Offers Remote Programming for All Ages During the Month of August

By Michelle Salimbene Albert, Senior Librarian

Summer programming fun continues through the month of August!

Be sure to visit our website prior to each program to register and receive virtual connection information.

■ **2020 Summer Reading Program: Imagine Your Story:** There is still time to register for the Summer Reading Program and log your books read throughout the summer. Babies through teens can earn small prizes and receive raffle tickets for a chance to win big prizes such as a Nintendo Switch Lite, tech items like a 3D pen and Fuji Polaroid Camera, book bundles, and a family membership to Turtle Back Zoo. Adults can receive raffle tickets for a chance to win a Kindle or a ShopRite gift card. The Summer Reading Program is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Nutley Public Library.

■ **Make a Fairy Garden Contest:** Fairy gardens have been around for hundreds of years and recently have become popular. Have you been inspired to create a magical fairy garden? If so, enter your fairy garden in the library's contest for a chance to win a prize. Winners will be announced mid-August.

■ **DISH! The Monday Night Cookbook Club - Monday, August 3 at 7pm:** Members choose, prepare at home, and present a recipe selected from the allrecipes.com website. Members will then gather online to discuss each other's recipes, cooking techniques, and share stories and culture.

■ **Maker Mondays - August 3 & 10:** Children of all ages and skill levels can check our website and Facebook page for a fun maker activity you can do at home.

■ **Babygarten - Tuesday, August 4 at 10am:** During this story-time hour, children, ages 23 months and under, and their caregivers enjoy books, rhymes, playtime, and make new friends.

■ **After Dinner Virtual Book Talk - Wednesdays, August 5 & 19 at 7pm:** Adults, join us for a virtual gathering and discussion online and a chance to win a gift card. The selected books being read are *The Ungrateful Refugee* by Dina Nayeri on August 5 and *Can't Hurt Me: Master Your Mind and Defy the Odds* by David Goggins on August 19. E-books or audiobooks can be downloaded from Hoopla, the library's digital collection.

■ **ProBox Players Presents - Wednesday, August 5 at 10:30am:** Children of all ages are invited to join Michelle Traina of Probox Players for a Sensory Improve Show where bubbles, clay, slime, and water marbles are incorporated into a silly show the audience helps create with Tessa the puppet.

■ **Virtual Escape Room - Thursday, August 6 at 5:30pm:** For students entering grades 4-6, work together to decipher



the clues and solve the mystery in a digital game from Breakout Edu.

■ **Bingo Game Night for Adults - Thursday, August 6 at 7pm:** Join us for a virtual bingo game night and the chance to win gift cards! Registration is required and space is limited. Prior to the date, participants will be emailed bingo card(s).

■ **Steam Story Time - Friday, August 7 at 10:30am:** Join this special story time with a hands-on activity you can do using materials you can find in your own home.

■ **Family Game Night - Monday, August 10 at 7pm:** A fun evening for families of all ages! Meet new friends and play a variety of games for a chance to win prizes from the comfort of your home.

■ **End-of-Summer Reading Program Live Animal Show - Thursday, August 13 at 2pm:** At this end-of-summer, all-ages celebration for patrons registered for the Summer Reading Program, join the Nutley Public Library and Rizzo's Reptile Discovery of New Jersey to learn about nature through this live animal presentation. Summer Reading Program big prize raffles for all ages, babies through adults, will be announced after the show.

■ **Film Discussion Group for Adults - Thursday, August 13 at 7pm:** The library will select a movie of the month. Visit Hoopla to watch the movie, no waiting required. Then register for the program and join the conversation online.

■ **Graphic Novel/Comic Book Club for Adults - Thursday, August 27 at 7:00 PM:** Borrow the selected graphic novel/comic book on Hoopla and join the conversation online. ■

*For up-to-date information about programs, events, and library happenings, stay connected with the Nutley Public Library through the following: [nutleypubliclibrary.org](https://nutleypubliclibrary.org); on social media at Facebook, Instagram and Twitter; email the librarians at [reference@nutleynj.org](mailto:reference@nutleynj.org); or call the Reference Desk at 973.667.0405 x2604. Our friendly staff members are available and always happy to assist you.*



# Anaïs St. Amant

By Joyce Corey

Sometimes, valuable artwork is found in someone's attic or at a garage sale.

I found an *amazing* artist right here at Nutley High School.

Last month's issue highlighted many of the students who formed the Class of 2020, and Anaïs St. Amant sent us her thoughts about coping and adapting to her senior year in a pandemic. She also sent some of her artwork.

All of us here at *Nutley Neighbors* were impressed.

I had the pleasure of asking her a few questions about her art and her future plans.

## ■ WHEN DID YOU START DRAWING AND PAINTING?

I have been drawing all of my life! Ever since elementary school, art has been my favorite class. Everyone in my family is a bit artistic, so my parents have always



encouraged me and my drawings. I began to seriously focus on art when I started high school. The art department at NHS is truly special, and has shown me how important it is to embrace art in the community. I am grateful for having wonderful art teachers!

## ■ I SEE YOU USED SEVERAL DIFFERENT TYPES OF ARTISTIC MEDIUM. DO YOU HAVE A PREFERENCE?

I prefer drawing with pens or painting with watercolor, although I like working with clay to make miniature sculptures and figurines.

## ■ HAS YOUR WORK APPEARED ANYWHERE ONLINE OR IN PRINT?

I have submitted my artwork to a few online shows. Unfortunately, most of them could not be physical shows because of the quarantine. Currently, one of my paintings is in South Orange Performing Arts Center's Inspired Minds online exhibition. Also, I have another oil painting in the Art Students League of New York online show as a student of



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the Aspiring Artists scholarship class this year.

Having my artwork in these shows is a very new and exciting experience, and I hope to continue submitting my work when I am in college. This is the link to my primary online portfolio site: [www.anaisportfolio.weebly.com/](http://www.anaisportfolio.weebly.com/)

#### ■ WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR INSPIRATION FOR YOUR ARTWORK?

I mainly get inspiration from learning about new things or current events. For example, I have a little food series where I explore different types of food products and compare them to their ingredients. One of these drawings illustrates my great-uncle Patty holding a jar of homemade maple syrup, and a maple tree sapling sprouting out of it.

My goal with art like this is to compare two ideas that have an interesting relationship with each other, so the viewer can



realize fun observations and ask new questions. On the other hand, I also make art inspired by the COVID-19 pandemic and my experiences during the quarantine. I like to create drawings that have a generally friendly appeal paired with a subtle commentary on topical events and aspects of daily life.

#### ■ WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?

Next year, I will be going to Montclair State University and working towards a BFA in Visual Communication. I aspire to be a graphic designer/illustrator. My goal is to create art which tells stories that viewers of all ages can enjoy. I believe that art plays a powerful role in uniting communities, and should be embraced especially during times like this!

I'm sure our readers will agree that Anaïs St. Amant is very talented and we will be watching for her future successes! ■

**It's a sellers' market  
and  
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# Thanking The Heroes

Submitted by Susan LaMorte

The Nutley-Belleville Columbus Parade Committee, in an effort to thank the heroes in the Nutley-Belleville community, presented "Thank You" donations to the Nutley Volunteer Emergency Rescue Squad (NVERS), Clara Maass Medical Center, and Belleville Emergency Management.

Right: Celeste A. Oranchak, Vice President of Clara Maass Foundation and Development, Cavaliere Susan LaMorte, Parade Chairperson, Mary Ellen Clyne, CEO Clara Maass Medical Center and Parade Treasurer Barbara Freda



Left: Parade Trustee Vito Matturro, Marty Lutz, Deputy Fire Chief Belleville Emergency Management Coordinator and Parade Chairperson Cavaliere Susan LaMorte



Above: Cavaliere Susan LaMorte, Parade Chairperson along with Jonathan Arrendondo, NVERS and Parade Co-Chairperson Ben Costa.

# Nutley Belleville Columbus Day Parade Scholarship Recipients

Submitted by Susan LaMorte

The Nutley-Belleville Columbus Day Parade Committee is very proud to present two scholarships to high school graduates from Nutley and Belleville High Schools, thereby ensuring that future generations are familiar with our Italian heritage and they promote and protect it.

Lucia Rizzuto was the recipient of the Nutley scholarship and Melissa Jimenez was the recipient of the Belleville scholarship.

Lucia Rizzuto is a graduate



Lucia Rizzuto



Melissa Jimenez

of Nutley High School. She was an officer of the Italian Honor Society and was President of Nutley High's Key Club. She was also a member of the National Honor Society and Student Council. Lucia will be attending Seton Hall University in the fall to major in mathematics and computer science and minor in Italian.

Melissa Jimenez is a graduate of Belleville High School. Growing up Italian with her mom, Josephine Inferno, and her grandmother, Clementine Inferno, has given her the true meaning of family and the commitment to preserve, promote, and protect her heritage, culture, and traditions.

She was the yearbook editor and was actively involved in the school's environmental club. She was on the varsity cheer team for all four years of high school as well as assisting with the recreational cheer teams. Melissa will be attending Kean University to study speech pathology in the fall. She always had a love of children which is leading her to a profession where she can make a difference in their lives.



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# Adopt Us!

*Submitted by Darling Paws Rescue*

**R**iggs is a 2.5 year old Schnauzer mix who weighs 17 pounds and is very cuddly and sweet. Riggs was found on street in Texas where a Good Samaritan picked him up and got him to foster. Riggs has separation anxiety and needs to be with his humans a lot to be happy. No households with children or cats will be considered. Riggs was tested with cats and did not do well. He would be good for an adult-only home with a yard or daily walks. Riggs has obviously been homeless and a stray once, so he needs a fenced-in area. He is housetrained for the yard and crate trained. Riggs was heartworm positive in Texas and we treated him for it. We had him neutered, brought up-to-date on all shots, microchipped, and transported to New Jersey. Riggs will require patience, and someone who is home a lot and willing to work through his anxiety. Once Riggs knows you, he is very snuggly and likes to sit with his humans!

*Submitted by Yellow  
Brick Road Rescue NJ*

**V**ictoria is a 1 year old beauty who traveled from Texas to us in New Jersey in hopes of finding her forever home! She is very sweet and craves attention. She tolerates other cats and dogs, but won't go out of her way to interact with them as she just wants all of the attention! She is petite and will be a small cat;

she is only about 6 pounds. She is FIV/FelV negative, dewormed, spayed, and up-to-date on vaccines. \$100 adoption fee applies.

To apply for Victoria: [www.yellowbrickroadrescue.nj.com/cat-adoption-application/](http://www.yellowbrickroadrescue.nj.com/cat-adoption-application/)

Or email us at [yellowbrickroadnj@gmail.com](mailto:yellowbrickroadnj@gmail.com) ■



# Remembering The Nutley Symphony

By Barry Lenson

In 1937, an orchestral conductor named William Oscar, who was living in Nutley, had the idea to start a symphony orchestra in our town. He and a group of amateur musicians did just that, and over the next 57 years, the Nutley Symphony was a centerpiece of musical life here.

The Nutley Symphony was a serious amateur ensemble made up of players from Nutley and surrounding towns. In its peak years, they presented as many as four concerts a year.

Concerts usually began with an overture by Rossini or Mendelssohn. Next, a solo instrumentalist would perform a concerto, or a singer would sing an opera aria or two. Then after intermission, there would be a symphony by Brahms, Dvorak, Mendelssohn, Mozart, Schubert, or Schumann. It was very impressive programming.

The Nutley Symphony gave its last concert in 1994. But where did the Symphony come from and how did it influence the lives of our citizens?

## ■ A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE NUTLEY SYMPHONY

William Oscar served as its first conductor until he died unexpectedly in 1940. At that point Nicos Cambourakis, who had been the Symphony's concertmaster, became conductor and remained in that post for 21 very active years.

Mr. Cambourakis had an amazing life. He was born in Greece, but his family moved to Imperial Russia, where he studied violin. According to Susan Clark Mullins, a violinist who studied with him, he played violin for Tsar Nicholas II when he was a child. The Tsar was so impressed that he paid for Nicos and his family to leave Russia and study abroad.



Dr. Ernest J. Ersfeld

Nicos was soon performing as a soloist with numerous European orchestras.

With the outbreak of World War II in Europe, he and his family came to America. Before coming to Nutley, he was concertmaster of several American orchestras. It is amazing that this world-class musician came to reside in our town.

When Mr. Cambourakis died in 1961, he was succeeded as conductor by Dr. Ernest J. Ersfeld, a beloved music teacher who was Superintendent of Music in the Nutley School System.

Following Dr. Ersfeld's retirement in 1984, the orchestra continued to perform for another decade under the direction of John Peter Holley and other conductors.

The Nutley Symphony brought much satisfaction to the people of Nutley. But it also encouraged young musicians to pursue long and fulfilling musical lives.

Let's hear from two of them.

## ■ SUSAN CLARK MULLINS, Violinist and Organist

Nutley native Susan Clark Mullins started attending Nutley Symphony concerts when she was three years old. Her father, John Clark, was a violinist who played with the

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orchestra. A few years later, she began to study violin in the Nutley schools and Mr. Cambourakis became her violin teacher.

"Nicos Cambourakis was a demanding and impressive man who drew the best from his players," Susan tells Nutley Neighbors. "I learned that years later when I tried out in a contest for a year's free lessons when I was in sixth grade. The deal was that if you won the contest, you had to play in the Nutley Symphony, something I was more than willing to do. I was incredibly pleased to win. However, I found Mr. Cambourakis to be a very stern taskmaster. It was with some sympathy that I watched one student scheduled before me coming out into the hallway with tears."

But Susan was not discouraged. She played with the Nutley Symphony and then went on to play with the New Jersey Symphony and the orchestra at the Paper Mill Playhouse. Today, she continues her musical career as a church organist.

#### ■ WILLIAM CLAMURRO, Active Amateur Oboist

William Clamurro, who grew up in Nutley, recently retired as



*A self-portrait painted by Nicos Cambourakis, now in the collection of the Nutley Museum*

a Professor of Spanish at Emporia State University in Kansas. Through the years, he has been an extremely active and sought-after oboist.

"The Nutley Symphony Orchestra was both a wonderful civic and cultural feature of that Essex County town and, at the same time, an amusingly rag-tag, often comical community activity for lots of people," William recalls.

"For me, the Nutley Symphony Orchestra was a significantly formative part of my life, or at least the part that had to do with starting up as an oboe player. I think that I came to play in the orchestra in the fall of 1958 or '59."

He has pursued an extremely active career as an oboist, playing in orchestras and chamber ensembles. The Nutley Symphony was the catalyst for all that, and he is grateful.

#### ■ WILL THE NUTLEY SYMPHONY RISE AGAIN?

Even though the Nutley Symphony gave its last concert more than 15 years ago, it is still listed as an active organization in some directories. Does that mean that this orchestra, fondly remembered, will spring back to life? Probably not. But we can always hope. ■

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# The Lambiase Farm

By Michael Lambiase and David Wilson

This is the story of the last farm in Nutley, six acres on the south-eastern side of Ridge Road, reaching to Bloomfield Avenue, 600 feet from Centre Street and to the water pipeline. The original farm house was removed to allow for Ridge Road expansion and replaced by the current house in 1933. Three generations, Francisco and Maria with daughter Ann, son Anthony and Esther, with children Michael, Richard, Thomas, and Anna lived on the farm. All the action was in the basement where an eight-foot table was the centerpiece for meals and family business. There was a tiled kitchen and pantry on the first floor and a telephone in the sun parlor. Francisco Lambiase was a furrier-flesher of animal skins for fur coats and apparel.

Structures included a two-story barn, chicken house, elevated turkey run, along with assorted sheds and outhouse. There were chickens, turkeys, ducks, peacocks, a goat, pigs, and a horse named Jimmy. Rats were part of the farm along with a copperhead snake



Left: Richard, Francisco and Jimmy the horse. and Michael, age 2, plowing the field with 1928 Cleartrac tractor  
Right: Ridge Road looking North from Centre Street 1928.  
Below left: Anthony



residing near Povershon Road. The orchard had peaches, pears, and persimmons. Eggs, corn, toma-

atoes, and other vegetables were sold at a stand in front of the home. Michael remembers the perks of picking a softball-size peach and biting into the sweet, juicy fruit.

The peacocks served no real purpose other than their screeching calls during the night being heard by neighbors on Centre Street. Francisco was a bird enthusiast and enjoyed the songs of his prize-winning canaries. A male turkey ran freely and was quite aggressive and territorial. Michael, at age five, teased the tom occasionally and would run to the back porch for safety. The crazy turkey chased a visiting school teacher and her class from the farm.

Stables were rented to Wally Del Hagen, a local merchant who owned five horses and a carriage. A friend took a horse



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out one day for a ride about town. The carriage broke loose half way up Chestnut Street. The hapless driver held onto the reins and was dragged all the way to Ridge Road sustaining many cuts and abrasions. Neighbors came out to help bandage his wounds.

Some other memories that Michael's father told him include Joe Pane's still on Centre Street exploding and sending parts onto the farm. A single-piston engine with a large circular saw blade and leather drive belt for cutting firewood. The old house had a well with a hand pump and great tasting water. Dad building a 27-foot cabin cruiser in the yard to replace his first boat lost in the 1938 hurricane. Milk from Cerami's Dairy that tasted like onions when the cows would break down the fence and feast on onion grass. Taffy pulls with cousin Sis and Life Savers candies from visiting friends out of Newark.

The farm was sold due to rising property taxes. Developers built twenty-six houses on the fields. The fire department burned the barn for a training exercise. 1954 saw the bulldozer remove the last peach trees as Francisco shed a few tears. Some land was saved for future family needs and Michael built a home there. ■

*David Wilson is the author of Fire in Our Lives, a book containing stories, experiences, and advice from his forty-year career in public safety. Available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Google Play.*

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# EVENTS CALENDAR **AUGUST** 2020

At the time this magazine went to print, all event times and locations were accurate, but please check event websites for the most current information. Some events may have been postponed or canceled.

## Nutley Public Library

Be sure to read the Library Corner article to see what's happening. Many of your favorite programs are meeting online and you can still catch up on your summer reading by checking out what's available on Hoopla or Libby/Overdrive. And don't forget about returning your physical copies of books through the outside book drop. For more information on events, returning items, or contact-free pick-up, call 973-667-0405 or visit [www.nutleypubliclibrary.org](http://www.nutleypubliclibrary.org)

## Nutley Parks

In the midst of the pandemic, Nutley parks are still the "crown jewel" of the Essex County Park system. Taking this time to visit a few (or all!) of them is a great way to appreciate nature and the beautiful summer weather, keep in shape (or walk off your quarantine snacks), or relieve stress. Here is a list of Nutley's parks to get you started.

### Booth Park

@Ravine Ave. and Harrison St.

### DeMuro Park

@Margaret Ave.

### Father Glotzbach Park

@Park Ave.

### Flora Loudon Park

(North and South)

@268 Hancox Ave.

### Kingsland Park

@258 Rutgers Pl.

### Memorial Park I, II, and III

@Passaic Ave. and Vreeland Ave.

### Msgr. Owens Park

@Park Ave.

### Nichols Park

@898 Bloomfield Ave.

### Reinheimer Park

@40 Bloomfield Ave.

### Yanticaw Park

@Centre St. and Park Dr.

## Turtle Back Zoo

@560 Northfield Ave., West Orange

The Essex County Turtle Back Zoo is open to the public through the use of timed tickets, which specify the date and time of your visit. Guests will be required to wear a face covering over their nose and mouth, adhere to social distancing guidelines, and have a temperature scan before admission.

For more information on safety procedures, exhibits, and to reserve your tickets, visit [www.turtlebackzoo.com/health-update](http://www.turtlebackzoo.com/health-update)

## Aug. 1, Sat.

### All Recovery Meeting (Online)

All Recovery Meetings are non-denominational and offer an opportunity to focus on the hope found in recovery. Recovery does not happen alone. Join this group and connect with others who are initiating and maintaining a recovery lifestyle. All Recovery Meetings are facilitated by trained and certified IFPR Peer Recovery Specialists and provide social support for those seeking or maintaining recovery, as well as family members, friends, and supporters of those who have been influenced by substance use.

Time: 12-1:30pm

For more information, meeting links, and other dates and times, visit [www.rwjbh.org/events/event/?event=14430](http://www.rwjbh.org/events/event/?event=14430)

## Aug. 2, Sun.

### Nutley Farmers Market

@537 Franklin Ave., Municipal Parking Lot 9

This season, in light of COVID-19, special measures are in place to help ensure the safety of patrons, vendors, and the community consistent with guidelines from the CDC and NJ Department of Health.

Time: 9am-2pm

For more information on vendors and safety guidelines visit [www.nutleynj.org/farmersmarket](http://www.nutleynj.org/farmersmarket)

## Aug. 3, Mon. – Aug. 14, Fri.

### Nature Explorers Summer Camp – Grades 3 and 4

@Essex County Environmental Center, 621-B Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland

Enjoy exploring and discovering woodland and river habitats for

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## Aug. 4, 18, Tue.

### Board of Commissioners Meeting

Please take notice that the regularly scheduled meetings of the Board of Commissioners will take place via Zoom webinars for the remainder of 2020. Members of the public may participate by utilizing their PC, iOS, or Android device to visit the Zoom link or by dialing in through their telephone.

Time: 7pm

For more information, Zoom access link, and call-in numbers, visit <https://www.nutleynj.org/meeting-agendas-and-minutes>

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